

Community Services and Recreation

DRAFT MINUTES/APPROVED

To: Parks & Recreation Commission Members

From: Eileen Pettit, Assistant Director of Recreation

Re: Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting November 15, 2010

Meeting was called to order by Chair, Mary Lou Stamp at 5:32 p.m.

I. Attendance:

Commissioners Present: Joe Capucci, Suzanne Lewis, Frank Montagna, Michael Pomichter, Susan Puzycki, Mary Lou Stamp

Commissioners Absent: Al Centone

Staff Present : Eileen Pettit, Assistant Director of Recreation
Lynn Sadosky, Director of Public Works
Carla Pelliccio, Secretary

II. Acceptance of Minutes:

Mary Lou Stamp made one correction to the September 20, 2010 minutes. It stated that Michael Pomichter made a motion to accept the March 15, 2010 minutes, seconded by Al Centone. The correct date should read May 17, 2010. Michael Pomichter made a motion to accept the September 20, 2010 minutes as corrected, seconded by Frank Montagna.

III. Correspondence:

A letter was sent by Lynn Sadosky to Marilyn O'Donnell, representative from *Paws in the Park*, outlining the details of the meeting that took place between she, Marilyn and Victor Palma on September 17, 2010. In the letter, Ms. Sadosky suggested that Mrs. O'Donnell, on behalf of Paws in the Park, attend the Parks and Recreation Commission meeting for their review and approval of the proposed concept of a Dog Park at Grover Wyman Park. See *New Business/Public Participation*.

A letter was received by First Selectman Michael Freda on November 9th from the Connecticut Tree Protective Association, Inc. requesting consideration for the Town Green to be the site of their 6th Annual Connecticut Tree Climbing Competition in April or May 2011. Ms. Sadosky will reach out to the organization to get further information.

IV. Director's Report:

Eileen Pettit, Assistant Director of Recreation

Winter brochures were distributed to the commissioners.

The Annual Halloween Party was held on Friday, October 29, 2010, from 4:30 – 6:00 PM. Activities included face painting, refreshments, pictures with the Great Pumpkin, balloons and entertainment. There

was a great turnout of children this year. Each child received a bag of candy at the conclusion. Ms. Pettit gave a special thanks to McDonald's for co-sponsoring again this year, as well as Bill Gambardella of Joe's Ice Cream for the donation of ice cream and candy.

Open basketball for women 18 and older currently takes place on Tuesday evenings at the Recreation Center gymnasium now through April 2011, from 7:00-9:00 p.m.

Open basketball for men 18 and older currently takes place on Tuesday and Thursday evenings at Ridge Road now through April 2011, from 6:30-9:30 p.m.

Registration for winter programs will begin the first week in December. Programs will begin in mid-January.

A new program, open ping-pong for anyone 18 and older is now being offered. Ms. Pettit had been approached by a few older gentlemen looking for a space to play. This new program takes place on Thursdays from 4:00-8:00p.m. in Room 3.

The Annual Tree Lighting is scheduled for Sunday, December 5th. The event begins at 2:00 PM and concludes at 5:00 PM with the lighting of the tree. (rain date set for December 6th from 3:00 PM to 6:00 PM). Outdoor activities include- hayrides around the Green and caroling. Indoor activities include- face painting, cookie decorating, craft room, pictures with Santa, refreshments and a musical revue by Minotti Music. The commissioners are cordially invited to attend.

Ms. Pettit was approached by Jeannie Savoia, a teacher from Green Acres School to assist in the sales of luminaries as a fundraiser for North Haven Educational Fund (NHEF). The Recreation Department has agreed to partner with this organization and is advertising this NHEF fundraiser in conjunction with the tree lighting ceremony. Donation forms were distributed to the commission.

Lynn Sadosky, Director of Public Works

Ms. Sadosky provided a report reviewing the following list of activities since the Commission last met:

- On October 3, 2010, the Republican Town Committee (RTC) held a conference on the Town Green.
- A private wedding (Reserved by L. Telford) was held on the Town Green, Sunday October 10, 2010.
- On October 30, 2010, a Patriotic Rally (Reserved by E. Paladino) was held on the Town Green.
- Max Sinoway Baseball concluded their Fall schedule on October 31, 2010.
- American Legion Juniors and American Legion teams concluded their Fall Baseball on Bailey Road Field on October 31, 2010.
- Scheduled North Haven Soccer Club concluded their Fall Soccer program on November 14, 2010.
- Youth Football continues at this time on Vanacore Field and Gateway Fields.
- The Ferraiuolo Family reserved the Pines Park for Saturday, October 16, 2010.
- The Town-wide Fall Leaf Collection Program commenced for all streets and all parks in Town November 1st through December 11th, 2010.
- Public Works to support the delivery and installation of Santa's Workshop on November 19, 2010.
- The Tree Lighting Ceremony has been scheduled for Sunday, December 5, 2010, weather permitting.
- Currently, leaf pickup has been the main focus of the department.

Discussions have commenced regarding the placement of a Dog Park in the Town of North Haven and the possibility of using Grover Wyman Park. This is addressed under *New Business/Public Participation*.

V. Old Business:

Lynn Sadosky, Director of Public Works

Coordination continues between USAELITE Softball and the Town regarding the college recruiting softball event scheduled to take place July 14th – 17th, 2011.

Discussions are ongoing regarding status of the Pine's Park Skate Park and the whether to remove or relocate the skate park due to complaints, vandalism, etc. It was recognized by the commission that this Skate Park would ideally need to be in a well-monitored area. It is anticipated that a decision will be made by Spring 2011.

VI. New Business / Public Participation:

Marilyn O'Donnell presented the "Paws in the Park" Dog Park proposal.

Mrs. O'Donnell introduced herself, the role she plays in the organization, and introduced the two engineers Steve and Bob who are currently working with her in the development of the layout of the proposed park (location, map of park as well as parking).

A detailed presentation was provided and proposal packets were distributed to the commission. The packets included the summary of location, details and benefits of the park, map of proposed park and parking layout, petition sheet to be polled to local neighbors within ¼ mile of the proposed park, proposed steps in property preparation, and proposed rules for the dog park. A question and answer session followed.

When the question of cost to construct this park arose by the commission, Ms. O'Donnell indicated that cost cannot be determined until the location has been secured. Once the location has been approved by the Town, then the cost can be determined as well as fundraising efforts.

Mr. Palma raised the issue of perpetual care surrounding the dog park. It was echoed by Lynn Sadosky and agreed upon by the commission that a type of formalized commission or association be created to be the point person(s) when any issues regarding the maintenance of the park arise, or any perpetual care issues.

The organization thanked the commission for their time. Thanked them for allowing them the opportunity to take the first step in this process by reviewing their proposal with the commission. Their next step will be to place a press release in the local media announcing that they will be petitioning neighbors within a ¼ mile of the proposed property. They then will begin their petition process. In the meantime, Ms. Sadosky will provide a copy of the proposal packet to the First Selectman.

VII. Adjournment:

Mary Lou Stamp asked for a Motion to Adjourn. Motion made by Joe Capucci, seconded by Suzanne Lewis. The meeting was adjourned at 7:18p.m.

Due to the Martin Luther King holiday on Monday, January 17th, the next meeting will take place on Tuesday, January 18, 2011 at 5:30pm.